

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215354

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION - PRCLO OFFICIALS

VISIT MUSEUM ON SEPTEMBER 27

REF: DEPT 206330

1. AT HIS REQUEST, PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI HELD A MEETING AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF CHINESE EXHIBITION, CHARLES PARKHURST. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ATTENDED SESSION. HSIEH EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GALLERY'S PLANNING FOR SHOW FOCUSING SPECIFICALLY ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:

2. CATALOGUE: PARKHURST OUTLINED OUR PLAN FOR CATALOGUE ALONG LINES OF REFTEL AND TOLD HSIEH THAT DUMMIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO USLO FOR EXPEDITIOUS SUBMISSION TO MFA FOR COMMENTS. HSIEH WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WRITTEN TEXTS CONTAINED IN CATALOGUE AND SEEMED RELIEVED WHEN TOLD THAT BULK OF TEXT WAS THAT CONTAINED IN VERSION PROVIDED US BY PRC. HSIEH INDICATED THAT WE HAD GONE THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS IN SENDING CATALOGUE TO PEKING, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT ASKED IF HE COULD BE PROVIDED WITH COPY OF DUMMIES.

PARKHURST PROMISED TO SEND PRCLO A COPY. HSIEH ASKED IF WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SLIDES OF OBJECTS FOR USE IN THE CATALOGUE. PARKHURST REPLIED THAT WE INTENDED TO PURCHASE THE PICTURES WHICH WERE USED IN SWEDISH AND BRITISH CATALOGUES, BUT THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE ANY SLIDES WHICH THE PRC HAD. HSIEH PROMISED TO GET THE GALLERY A SET FROM CANADA AND NOTED THAT WHILE THE GALLERY WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THE USE OF PICTURES FROM EUROPEAN CATALOGUES, THE CHINESE SLIDES WERE AVAILABLE FREE. (PARKHURST TOLD DEPT OFFICER THAT QUALITY OF PICTURES WAS NUMBER ONE CONSIDERATION AND THAT IF CHINESE SLIDES NOT UP TO SNUFF, GALLERY STILL INTENDED USE EUROPEAN PICTURES.)

3. OTHER PUBLIC MATERIAL: HSIEH ASKED ABOUT PLANS FOR POSTERS, BROCHURES, SALEABLE REPLICAS OF OBJECTS ETC. ON POSTERS, PARKHURST SAID THAT GALLERY INTENDS PRINT THOSE USED IN SWEDISH SHOW, INCLUDING FLYING HORSE AND JADE SUIT PHOTOS. HSIEH ASKED ABOUT TEXT ON POSTERS AND WAS TOLD THAT TEXT WOULD MERELY INCLUDE NAME OF SHOW, NAME OF GALLERY AND DATES AND TIMES OF SHOWING. ASKED ABOUT BROCHURES, PARKHURST EXPLAINED THAT GALLERY PLANNED HAVE HAND-OUT BROCHURE CONTAINING CHART OF EXHIBITION ON ONE SIDE AND BRIEF TEXT DESCRIBING ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF EXHIBITS ON OTHER. HSIEH AGAIN MENTIONED THAT PRC VERY INTERESTED IN SCRUTINIZING TEXT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. PARKHURST ASSURED HIM THAT DRAFT OF TEXT WOULD BE PROVIDED CHINESE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ASKED ABOUT WHETHER PRCLO COULD CLEAR POSTERS AND BROCHURE OR WHETHER THEY HAD TO BE SENT TO PEKING. HE REPLIED THAT POSTERS COULD BE SENT TO PRCLO, BUT THAT ANYTHING CONTAINING SUBSTANTIAL TEXT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO BOTH PRCLO AND PEKING.

4. OPENING CEREMONIES: HSIEH INQUIRED ABOUT PLANS FOR OPENING CEREMONY. PARKHURST EXPLAINED THAT PLANNING FOR OPENING PERIOD STILL IN TENTATIVE STAGE, BUT THAT PRIOR TO FINALIZATION, THE GALLERY WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH PRCLO. PRELIMINARY PLANS WERE FOR A PRESS PREVIEW ON AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 10, A DINNER AT THE DEPARTMENT

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OF STATE, SPONSORED BY THE GALLERY TRUSTEES FOLLOWED BY THE OFFICIAL OPENING AT THE GALLERY ON THE EVENING OF THE 10TH, A DIPLOMATIC AND CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION AND PREVIEW ON DECEMBER 11, A VIP RECEPTION AND PREVIEW BY INVITATION ON DECEMBER 12 AND OPENING TO THE PUBLIC ON DECEMBER 13.

5. LECTURES AND SEMINARS AND FILMS: HSIEH ASKED

SEVERAL TIMES WHETHER ANY LECTURES OR SEMINARS WERE SCHEDULED AT THE GALLERY DURING THE SHOW AND EACH TIME SEEMED RELIEVED WHEN PARKHURST REPLIED THERE WERE NONE CONTEMPLATED. PARKHURST DID INFORM HSIEH THAT THE GALLERY PLANS TO HAVE A CONTINUOUS SLIDE SHOW IN THEIR AUDITORIUM AND THAT THE TEXT FOR THE SHOW WOULD BASICALLY COME FROM THE THE CHINESE CATALOGUE. THE GALLERY ALSO PLANS TO SHOW THE TWO ARCHEOLOGICAL FILMS PROVIDED BY THE PRC. HE ALSO ASKED HSIEH WHETHER THE PRC HAD OTHER FILMS WHICH MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR SHOWING IN CONNECTION WITH SHOW AND HSIEH SAID HE WOULD CHECK.

6. SECURITY: HSIEH ASKED ABOUT GALLERY PLANS FOR SECURITY OF EXHIBITS DURING SHIPMENT FROM TORONTO MUSEUM TO NATIONAL GALLERY. PARKHURST REPLIED THAT PLANS NOT YET FINALIZED, BUT THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE GALLERY WOULD SUBMIT TO PRCLO A MEMO OUTLINING SECURITY PROVISIONS.

7. PARKHURST CONDUCTED PRCLO OFFICIALS ON TOUR THROUGH GALLERY AREAS ASSIGNED TO CHINESE EXHIBITION AS WELL AS AUDITORIUM AND BOOK SHOP. HSIEH ASKED ABOUT KANSAS CITY'S PLAN AND POSSIBILITY OF PRCLO OFFICIALS VISITING KANSAS CITY MUSEUM. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND IF PRCLO WOULD SUBMIT DATE TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE, ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

8. COMMENT: HSIEH'S SENSITIVITY TO TEXTS IN PUBLIC MATERIAL CONFIRMS OUR SUSPICIONS THAT PRC EXPERIENCE IN UK AND CANADA HAS MADE THEM EXTRA CAUTIOUS ABOUT THAT ASPECT OF US SHOW, AND PARTICULARLY UNDERLINED DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN CLEARING COMPLETELY NEW TEXT FOR CATALOGUE. WHILE WE, THEREFORE, CONSIDER IT PRUDENT TO CONTINUE TO CLEAR ANY PUBLICITY MATERIAL WITH SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANTIAL TEXT THROUGH USLO-MFA CHANNEL, NOW THAT HSIEH HAS APPROACHED GALLERY ON SUBJECT, WE WILL SUBMIT ITEMS SUCH AS POSTERS AND OTHER GRAPHIC MATERIAL TO PRCLO FOR VETTING.

9. GALLERY UNDER TIGHT DEADLINE SCHEDULE TO HAVE CATALOGUE READY FOR OPENING SHOW. THEREFORE, REQUEST USLO PRESS CHINESE FOR COMMENTS SOONEST. INGERSOLL

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